

basal stratum was a yellowish brown to strong brown loamy silt, and was interpreted as a strongly developed argillic B-horizon. This stratum contained very few artifacts, and none were recovered from it in Test Units 2, 5, and 6 (this stratum was not encountered in Test Unit 9). Ruts, depressions, small mounds, and a possible lane were visible on the surface of the site, which was quite uneven. These features seemed to indicate substantial disturbance of the site in quite recent times, perhaps by earth-moving machinery.

Test Units 1 and 8 exhibited a distinctively different soil profile from the remainder of the site (Figure 68). Test Unit 1 was excavated adjacent to Phase I Shovel Test Pit 220d, which exposed the possible feature. Instead of a defined feature, these units located a deep Stratum B characterized by a brown to light yellowish brown silt loam extending to a depth of 90 centimeters below ground surface in Test Unit 1, and 60 centimeters below ground surface in Test Unit 8. Artifact frequencies increased in both Test Unit 1 and Test Unit 8 through this stratum, until a sharp dropoff at 80 centimeters and 50 centimeters below ground surface, respectively. The triangular projectile point was recovered from Level 7 in Test Unit 1, just above the depth where the frequency of artifacts sharply declined. Historic artifacts were recovered as deep as Level 5 within this stratum. Geomorphologist Daniel Wagner interpreted these deposits as an accumulation of slopewash, 41 centimeters deep in Test Unit 1, over a largely intact stratigraphy. Artifact totals were highest in Stratum E of the intact stratigraphy, and the numbers dropped off sharply when excavators reached the natural subsoil, an argillic Bt-horizon of Pleistocene age. The thickness of slopewash in Test Units 1 and 8 is clearly related to their location at the western edge of the terrace, where waterborne soils accumulated (see Appendix H).

4. Summary

The Drawyer Creek North Site appeared to have been used solely or primarily during the Woodland period, probably as a procurement station by people foraging in the wetlands along Drawyer Creek. The Phase II testing demonstrated that the site, although it appeared initially to be intact, had, in fact, been substantially disturbed. Most of the site had been plowed, with intact strata preserved only along the northern margin of the site, where they had been buried under deep slopewash. The uneven surface of the site pointed to further recent disturbance.

The historic component of the Drawyer Creek North Site, which included whiteware and cut nails, appears to be related to a nineteenth-century dwelling shown nearby on maps from 1868 to 1906 (see Figures 9 and 11). However, the actual site of this dwelling was probably destroyed during the construction of the Dupont Highway. No features or intact deposits related to this dwelling were discovered.

D. SITE 7NC-G-150, THE EISENBREY WETLAND SITE

1. Site Description

The Eisenbrey Wetland Site was a moderately dense scatter of prehistoric artifacts, predominantly lithic debitage, located within the proposed Eisenbrey Wetland Mitigation area. The wetland area

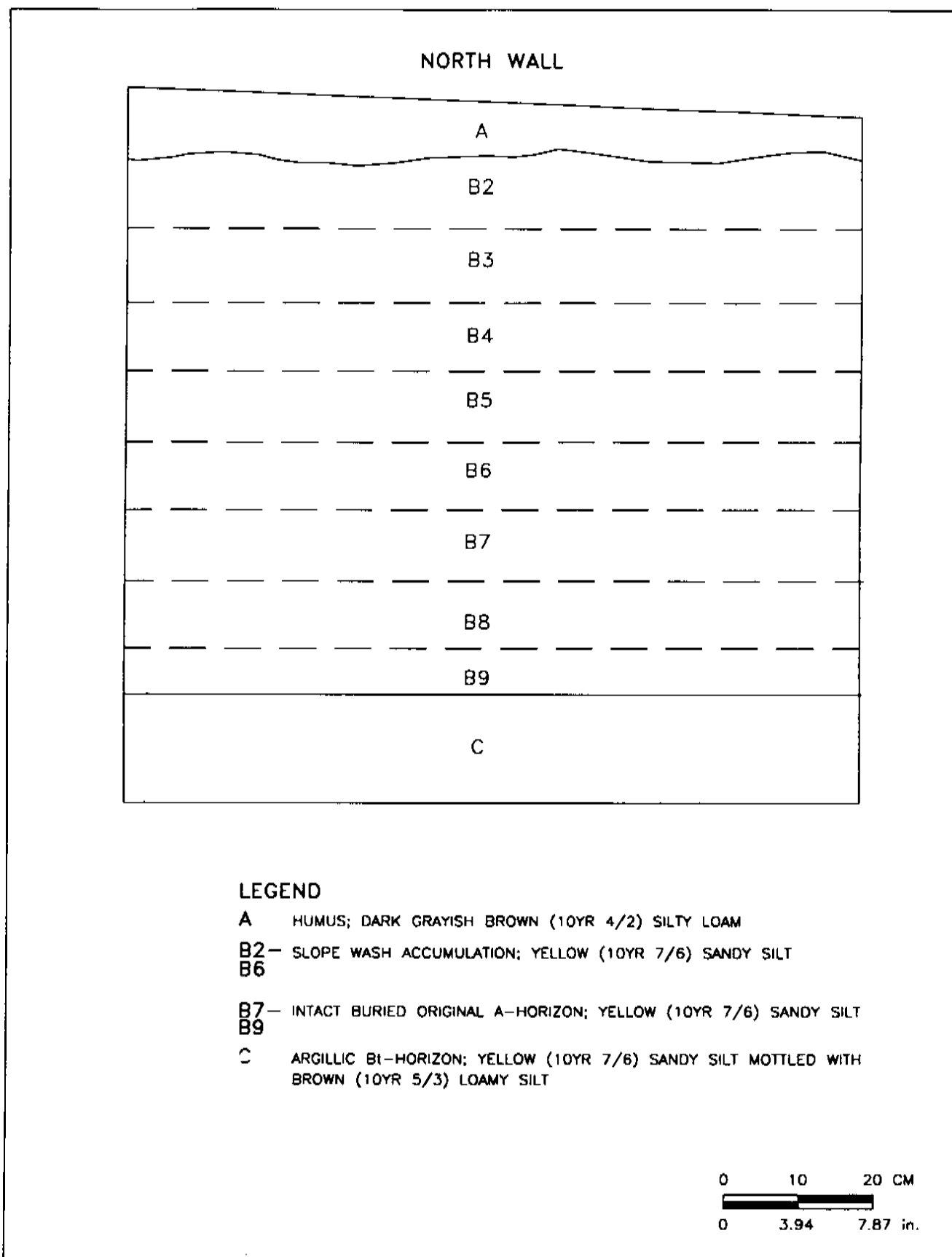


FIGURE 68: Drawyer Creek North (7NC-G-149) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 1

was located on the northern bank of Drawyer Creek, about 250 meters (800 feet) east of U.S. Route 13 (see Figure 24; Plate 11). The site measured approximately 140 meters (450 feet) east to west and 70 meters (230 feet) north to south.

The Eisenbrey Wetland Site (Site 7NC-G-150) was identified during a Phase I survey in the spring of 1995 (Bedell 1995c). At that time, the entire wetland replacement area was shovel tested at 20-meter intervals. Thirty-two of 48 shovel test pits excavated during the survey yielded prehistoric artifacts, and artifacts were recovered from subplowzone deposits. Phase II fieldwork was recommended because of the high density of artifacts and the potential for intact, unplowed cultural deposits.

2. Environmental Setting

To the east, south, and southwest, the site was bounded by a bluff edge above the tidal marsh along Drawyer Creek, which was also the boundary of the wetland replacement area. During the Phase I survey, the northern boundary of the site was defined by negative shovel tests not far beyond the wetland replacement area right-of-way. The western boundary of the site was defined by a ravine that separated the site from the Drawyer Creek North Site (Site 7NC-G-149).

The peninsula on which Site 7NC-G-150 was located was one of several such points, separated by drainages, that comprised the northern bank of the Drawyer Creek tidal marsh. At the time of the Phase II study, the low area east of the site was part of the active tidal marsh, while the low area west of the site was dry. The latter area was probably only wet during the late winter and early spring. The tip of the point of land at the southern end of the site jutted out slightly into the main part of the marsh. This point was bounded by a steep but short scarp, no more than one meter high. The scarp showed that some erosion had taken place around the site, probably caused by tidal or wave action. In this area, Drawyer Creek has been tidal for approximately 2,000 to 3,000 years (Kraft 1977). Before that time, the Drawyer Creek valley would have been a freshwater stream and floodplain complex. Since the stream became tidal, estuarine sediment has probably raised the level of the valley floor by at least one meter. Before this sedimentation, the floodplain was probably characterized by poorly drained wetlands, bordered by slopes rising steeply to upland locations like that of the site. Similar settings can now be found some 2.5 kilometers upstream from the site.

Beginning at the point that forms the tip of the landform, a lower flat terrace or shelf extended north for approximately 20 meters, where an upward slope began which rose about 5 meters to the start of a second terrace. This terrace extended northward and widened to meet the broad upland located north of Drawyer Creek. At the time of the Phase II fieldwork, the lower terrace was covered in grass, while the upper terrace was planted with nearly mature soybeans.

3. Phase II Testing

Phase II investigations began with the systematic placement of test units at 20-meter intervals across the site. Twenty-four test units were used to complete this grid, 20 on the upper terrace

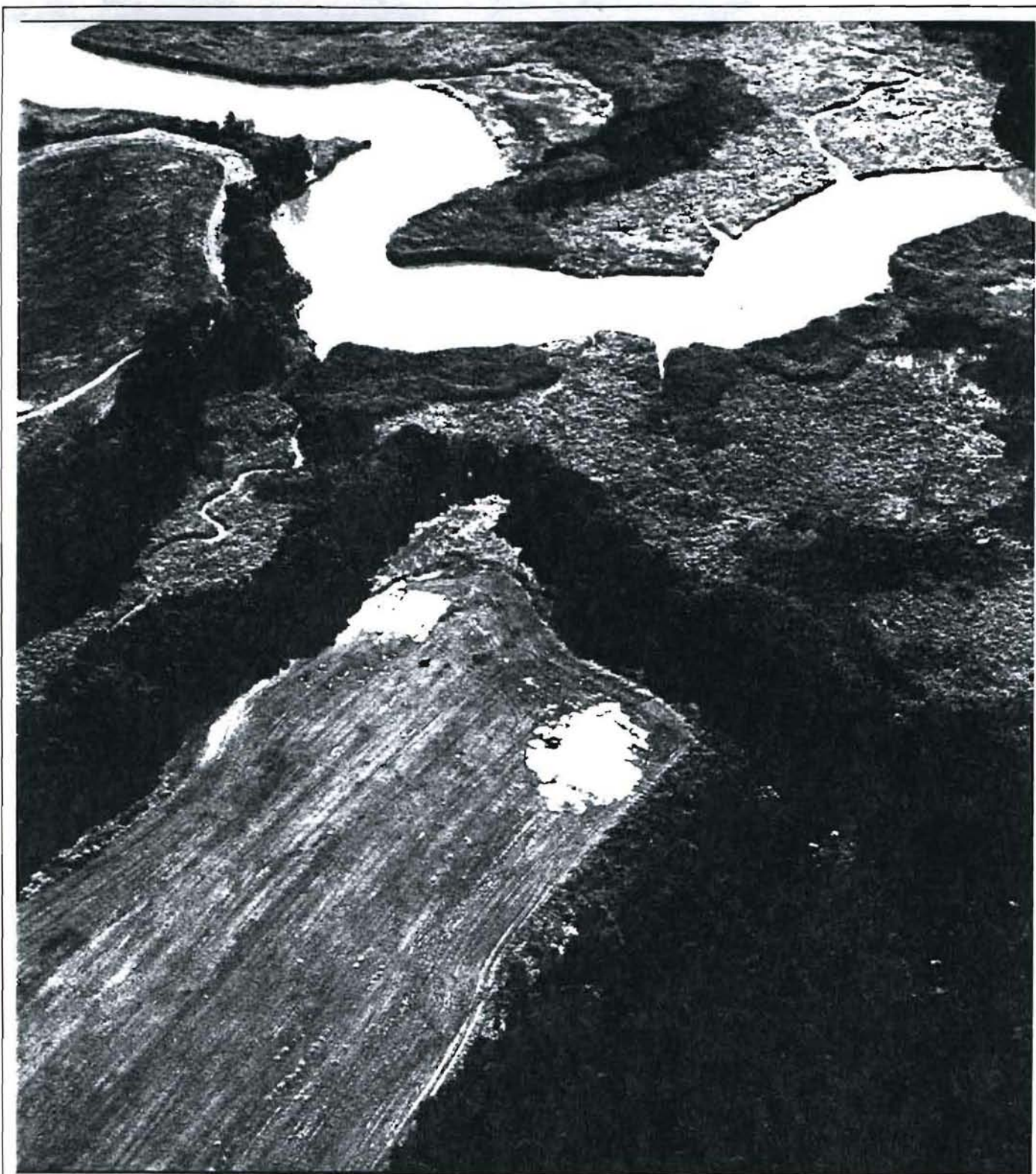


PLATE 11: Aerial View of the Eisenbrey Wetland Site, 7NC-G-150, During Extended Phase II Excavations, August 1996

in four east-west transects, and four on the lower terrace (Figure 69). After completion of the grid, 13 more test units were placed between earlier test units within the promising loci identified during the systematic testing, resulting in a 10-meter testing interval within these loci. A total of 37 test units were excavated during the Phase II fieldwork.

The Phase I and II investigations yielded 1,267 prehistoric artifacts (Table 19; Plate 12). Seven of these artifacts were ceramic sherds, 283 were fragments of fire-cracked rock (FCR), and the rest were lithic debitage and tools. Lithic raw material on the site included jasper, quartz, chert, and quartzite, with rhyolite, argillite, chalcedony, metasedimentary rock, and steatite represented in much smaller quantities. All of the test units contained an obviously modern plowzone, except for three on the lower first terrace. One hundred and nineteen prehistoric artifacts were recovered from these three test units. Of the remaining 1,148 artifacts, only 107 were recovered from below the plowzone. The vast majority of these are tiny pieces of lithic debitage. The distribution of the artifacts is shown in Figure 70.

Three loci of artifact concentration were identified within the site's horizontal distribution during the Phase II investigation (see Figure 70). In general, these loci were defined by a cluster of test units containing more than 30 prehistoric artifacts each.

Locus 1 was located in the eastern portion of the site, on the southern edge of the upper terrace, at the top of the slope leading down to the lower terrace. This locus included Test Units 2, 6, 10, 26, and 30. These five clustered test units yielded 243 prehistoric artifacts. Only 19 of the 243 artifacts came from subplowzone contexts. Twenty-eight of these artifacts were fragments of FCR, one was a quartzite biface, and the rest were lithic debitage. Phase I shovel testing in this area produced one quartz biface.

Locus 2 was located on the upper terrace in the western portion of the site, and included Test Units 8, 9, 13, 14, 27, 31, and 33. Test Unit 31 is included, even though it contained fewer than 30 artifacts, because it was surrounded by the other test units of this cluster. These seven clustered test units yielded 389 prehistoric artifacts, including five of the seven sherds recovered, one steatite bowl fragment, and 106 fragments of FCR (almost 40% of the FCR recovered). Test Unit 14 contained a portion of the only potential cultural feature identified (Figure 71). It was exposed at the base of the plowzone in the southeastern half of the test unit and was labeled Feature 2. (Feature 1, uncovered in Test Unit 10 earlier, proved to be a tree stain.) Feature 2 was a deep pit-like feature with steeply sloping walls which bottomed out at 85 centimeters below the base of the plowzone. The base of the feature appeared to be completely within Test Unit 14, but the remainder was effectively bisected by the test unit. Thus, most of Feature 2 appeared in the eastern and southern wall profiles. The soil within the pit differed only slightly from the surrounding matrix; it was slightly darker in color, had a higher clay content, and contained tiny flecks of charcoal. Twenty-eight pieces of lithic debitage and two FCR were recovered from Feature 2. Two more pieces of debitage and another FCR were found in the surrounding soil and may possibly be considered part of the feature because of the difficulty in distinguishing between the feature soil and the non-feature soil. These 33 artifacts account for almost 31 percent of the subplowzone artifacts in the Phase II assemblage. Feature 2 was interpreted as either a pit feature

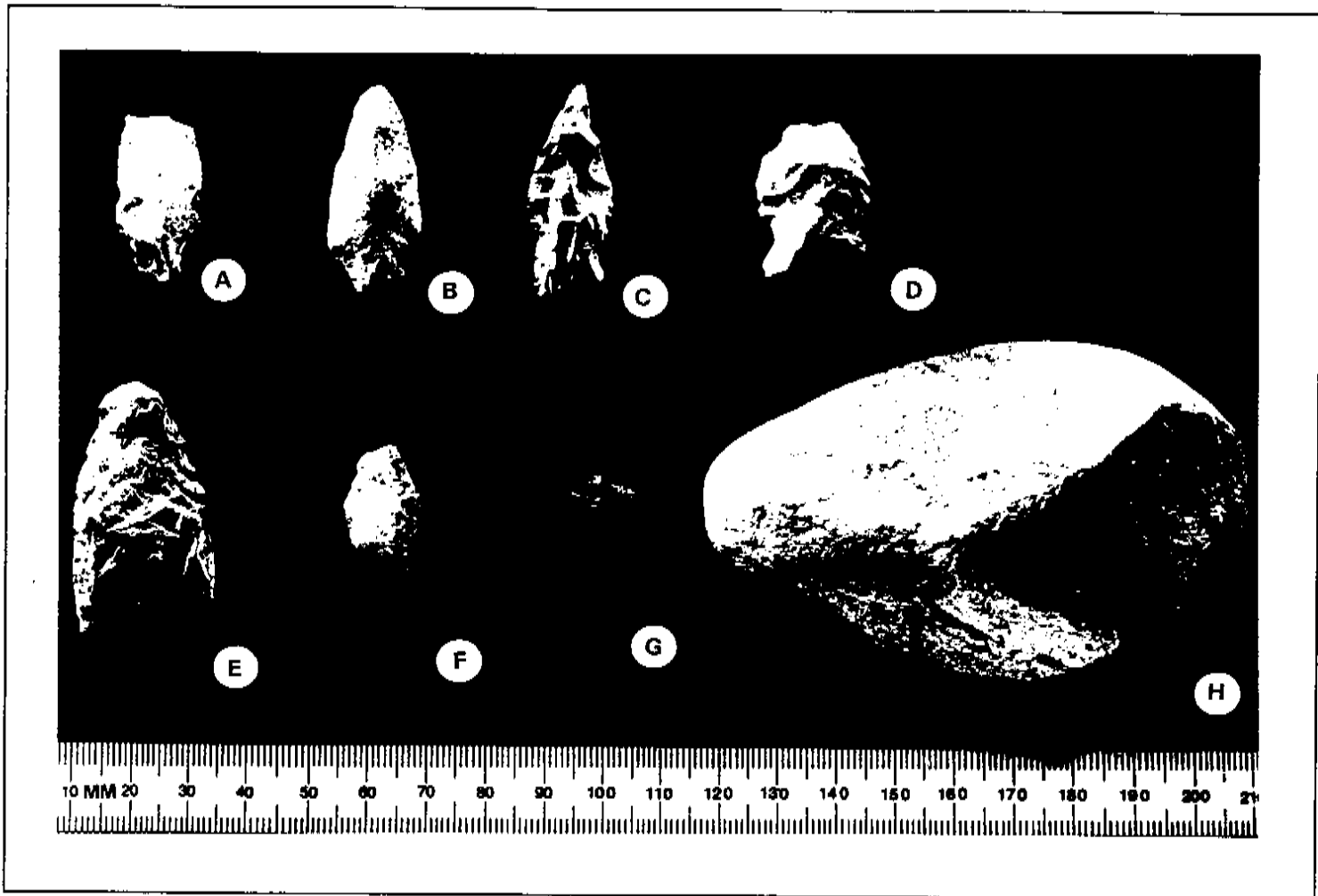


PLATE 12: Prehistoric Artifacts from the Eisenbrey Wetland Site, 7NC-G-150

- A) Quartz Stemmed Projectile Point from Locus 1, Test Unit 60, Stratum A (95/73/94)
- B) Argillite Stemmed Projectile Point from Locus 1, Test Unit 21, Stratum A (95/73/45)
- C) Jasper Fishtail Projectile Point from Locus 3, STP 2 (95/48/1)
- D) Quartz Side-notched Projectile Point from Locus 2, Test Unit 47 Stratum A (95/73/83)
- E) Chert Early-stage Biface from Locus 1, STP 11a (95/48/10)
- F) Quartz Biface Fragment from Locus 1, Test Unit 57, Stratum A (95/73/93)
- G) Chert Endscraper from Locus 1, Test Unit 2, Stratum A (95/73/2)
- H) Sandstone Mano from Test Unit 4, Stratum A (95/73/8)

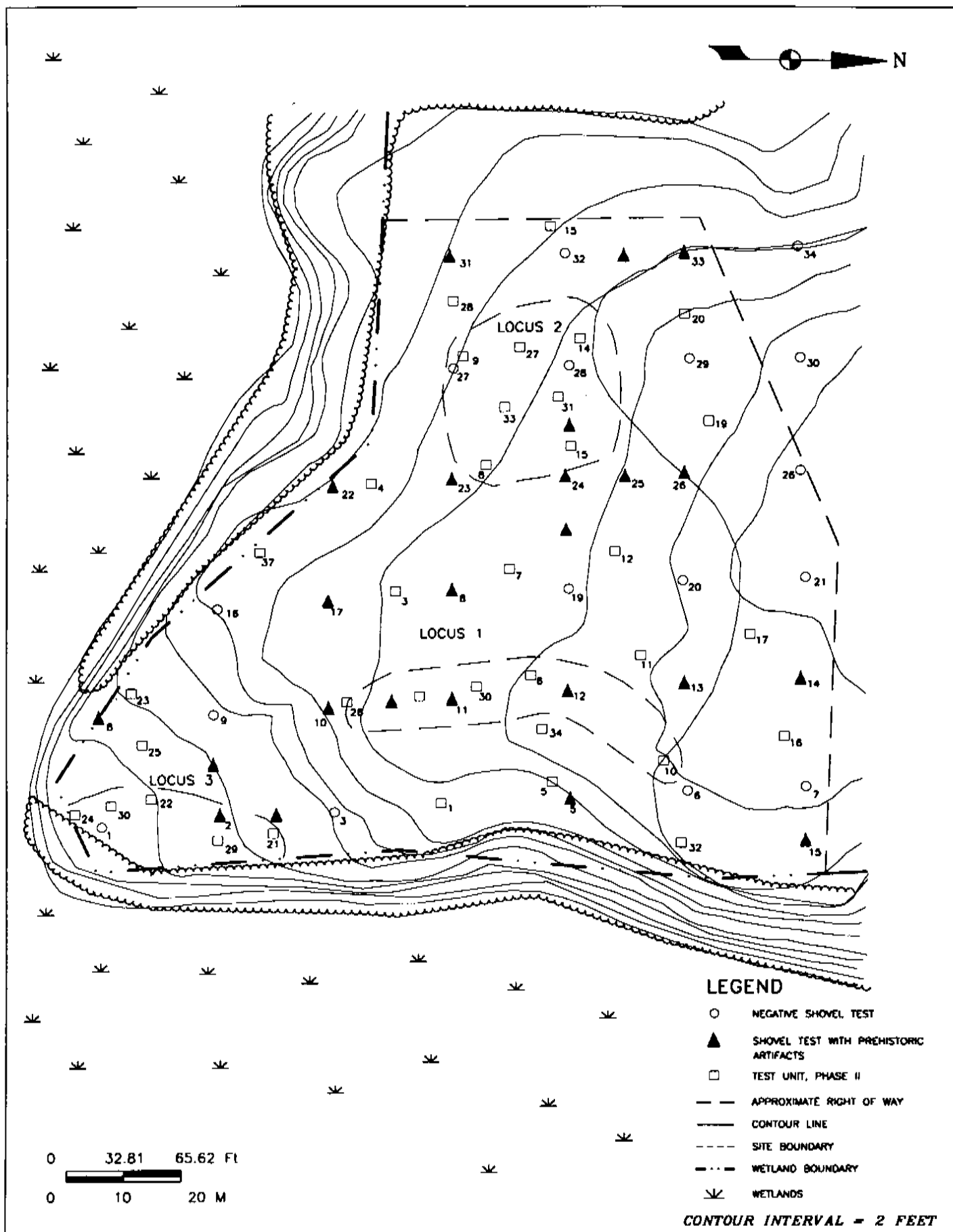


FIGURE 69: Eisenbrey Wetland (7NC-G-150) Site, Plan of Testing

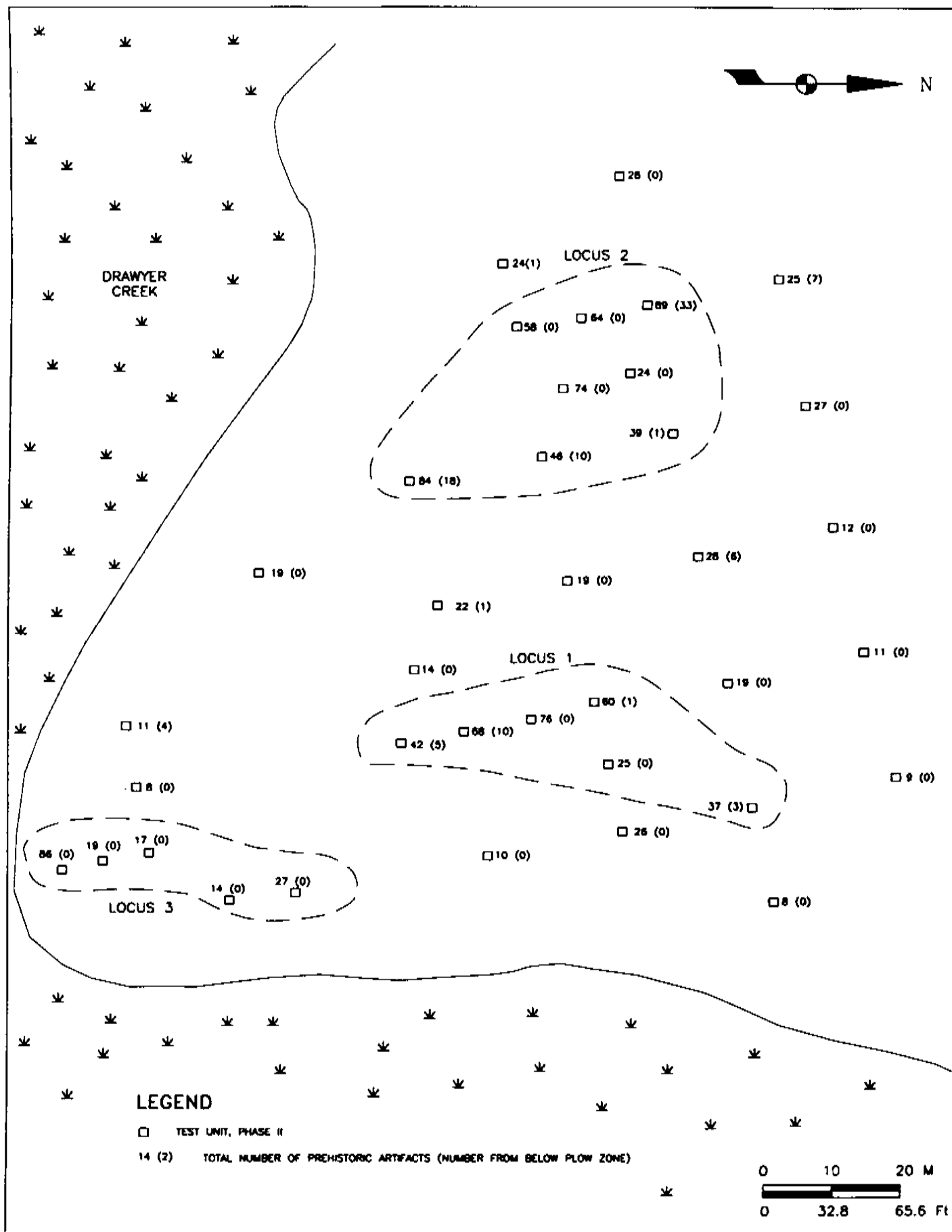


FIGURE 70: Eisenbrey Wetland (7NC-G-150) Site, Artifact Distribution

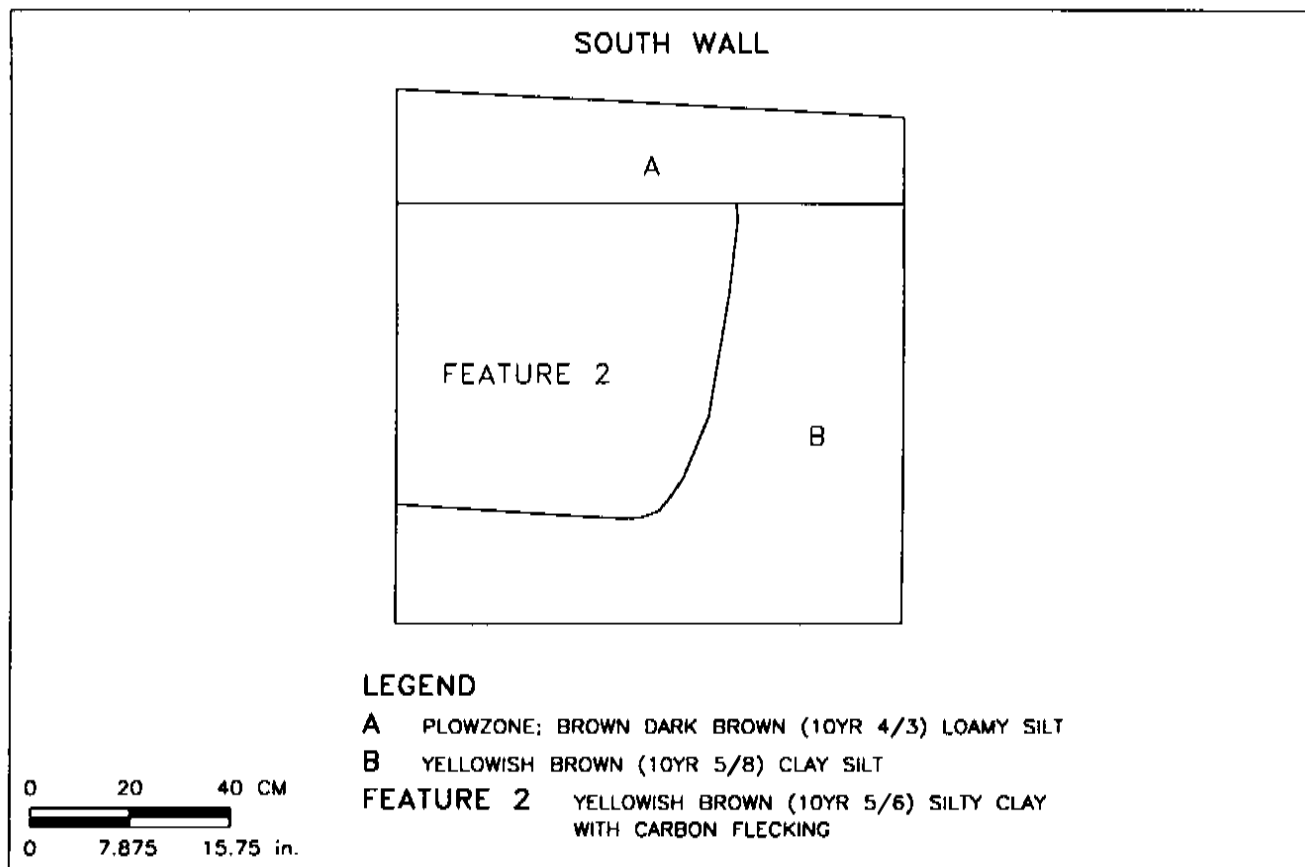


FIGURE 71: Eisenbrey Wetland (7NC-G-150) Site, Stratigraphic Profile of Test Unit 14

TABLE 19

SUMMARY OF PREHISTORIC LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE
SITE 7NC-G-150

ARTIFACT TYPE	RAW MATERIAL										TOTAL
	Chert	Jasp	Rhyol	Arg	Qrt	Qrtz	Chal	Meta	Stea	Not Assg*	
Bifaces											
Projectile Points	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	3
Early-Stage Bifaces	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Middle-Stage Bifaces	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Late-Stage Bifaces	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Ind. Biface Fragments	3	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	6
Unifaces											
Endscrapers	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Sidescrapers	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Utilized Flakes	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Groundstones											
Steatite Bowls	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Manos	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	2
Cores											
Freehand Cores	1	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	4
Tested Cobbles	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Debitage											
Flake Fragments	81	98	6	2	67	46	1	.	.	.	301
Flake Shatter	1	4	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	8
Block Shatter	31	36	.	.	75	12	.	.	.	.	154
Decortication Flakes	14	72	.	.	3	8	.	.	.	.	97
Early Reduction Flakes	69	12	5	5	74	51	.	1	.	.	217
Biface Reduction Flakes	13	1	1	.	2	1	.	.	.	.	18
Indeterminate Flakes	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Other Flake Types	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	4
Hammerstones	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
Fire-Cracked Rock	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	283	285
TOTALS	221	233	13	9	227	121	1	3	3	285	1116

*Not Assigned; refers to fire-cracked rock; Jasp = Jasper, Rhyol = Rhyolite, Arg = Argillite, Qrt = Quartz, Qrtz = Quartzite, Chal = Chalcedony, Meta = Metasedimentary, Stea = Steatite

of the kind reported by Custer (1994) for other Delaware sites, or a treefall. In any event, the feature yielded a substantial number of artifacts, and the large amount of FCR recovered from Locus 2, including 20 pieces from Test Unit 14, suggests that a hearth may have been located nearby.

Locus 3 was concentrated at Test Unit 24, located at the tip of the lower first terrace where it jutted out slightly into the tidal marsh. This unit yielded 86 prehistoric artifacts, including a steatite fragment that may have been modified, and 30 FCR fragments, which were not articulated. Artifacts were recovered from the first two strata, to a depth of about 50 centimeters below the surface (Figure 72). The stratigraphy in this area was complicated by the buildup of slopewash, and it was not possible to identify a plowzone during the initial testing. However, careful inspection of the test unit by a geomorphologist revealed that two stacked plowzones with a combined depth of 50 centimeters were present (see Appendix II). Therefore, all the artifact-bearing strata had in fact been plowed. Test Units 21, 22, 29, and 36 were included as part of Locus 3, despite their low artifact totals, because they were located on the same terrace and yielded diagnostic artifacts. A contracting-stemmed argillite projectile point was recovered from the plowzone of Test Unit 21, and a contracting-stemmed rhyolite point was recovered from the plowzone of Test Unit 22. Both resemble the Late Archaic (early Woodland I) Bare Island type (Ritchie 1971). These were the only diagnostic points found during the Phase II testing, but a similar chert point was recovered from Phase I Shovel Test Pit 2, very close to Test Unit 29. A concentration of prehistoric activity in the early Woodland I period is therefore indicated.

4. Summary

Phase II testing of the Eisenbrey Wetland Site located three loci of relatively high artifact density. Locus 1, located at the edge of the upper terrace in the eastern part of the site, yielded only nondiagnostic lithics, almost all from plowzone contexts, and its information potential appears to be limited. Locus 2, located on the upper terrace in the western part of the site, yielded five ceramic sherds in the Phase II investigations and one in the Phase I survey, suggesting a Woodland date, and one feature that may be cultural. Locus 3, located on the lower terrace adjacent to the tidal marsh, is dated by three projectile points to the Late Archaic/early Woodland I period. The number and types of artifacts recovered from all three loci suggest that they represent procurement sites related to hunting and gathering activities along Drawyer Creek. However, if Feature 2 is a cultural pit, it would indicate that the site represents a longer-term occupation, similar to what Custer (1994) terms a microband base camp.

E. SITE 7NC-G-143, THE DRAWYER CREEK SOUTH SITE

1. Site Description

The Drawyer Creek South Site was an unplowed prehistoric site located on the bank of Drawyer Creek, a small tidal river (see Plate 3). The site was bounded on the north by the wetlands along the creek, on the east and west by shallow ravines, and on the south by a borrow pit excavated during the construction of the Dupont Highway. The site measured approximately 50 meters north to south and 25 meters east to west (165x80 feet) (see Figure 25; Figure 73).